IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier

listings and all earlier versions.

Claim 1. (currently amended): An image input/output control apparatus for

performing input/output of image data ~~with an external apparatus~~, comprising:

first image processing means for converting image data inputted by an image

input apparatus to a plurality of image data packets;

second image processing means for performing image processing on the image

data packets from said first image processing means;

third image processing means for generating image data based on the plurality

of image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

control means for controlling storing-processing for storing the plurality of

image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the

plurality of image data packets from the storage apparatus the input/output of the ~~image data~~

~~with the external apparatus~~;

~~plural image processing means for performing predetermined image processes~~

~~to the image data; and~~

~~plural~~ data transfer means for connecting ~~each of~~ said plural image processing

means and said control means like a ring and for performing data transfer between said plural

image processing means and said control means unidirectionally,

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wherein ~~each of said plural image processing means and said control means are~~ ~~composed respectively on different units~~ said data transfer means transfers the image data packet to one of said plural image processing means based on an identification information for identifying one of said plural image processing means added to the image data packet, and

wherein one of said plural image processing means performs image processing on the image data packet which is transferred by said data transfer means based on the identification information.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means performs <u>image</u> processing setting for said plural image processing means through said data transfer means, and <u>one of</u> said plural image processing means performs<u>s</u> ~~the~~ ~~processes~~ <u>image processing</u> on the basis of the <u>image</u> processing setting.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim [[1]] <u>2</u>, wherein said control means ~~includes first generation means for generating~~ <u>generates</u> a command packet in which a header including ~~discrimination~~ <u>the identification</u> information ~~to~~ ~~discriminate to which of said plural image processing means the processing setting should be~~ ~~performed~~ is added to command data including <u>image</u> processing information to perform the <u>image</u> processing setting for said plural image processing means,

wherein said data transfer means transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing means corresponding to the identification information, and

wherein one of said plural image processing means corresponding to the identification information ~~include first packet control means for analyzing the header of the input command packet and controlling~~ performs the image ~~process~~ processing ~~concerning the input command packet~~ based on the ~~discrimination~~ image processing information ~~described on the header, and~~

~~said data transfer means transfers the command packet.~~

Claims 5 - 54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (new): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second image processing means performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of image data packets.

Claim 56. (new): An image input/output apparatus for performing input/output of image data, comprising:

an image input/output apparatus;

an image input apparatus for inputting image data to said image input/output apparatus; and

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an image output apparatus for outputting image data inputted by said image input/output apparatus,

wherein said image input/output apparatus further comprises:

a first image processing unit adapted to convert image data inputted by an image input apparatus to a plurality of image data packets;

a second image processing unit adapted to perform image processing on the image data packets from said first image processing unit;

a third image processing unit adapted to generate image data based on the plurality of image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

a control unit adapted to control storing process for storing the plurality of image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of image data packets from the storage apparatus; and

a data transfer unit adapted to connect said plural image processing units and said control unit like a ring and to perform data transfer between said plural image processing units and said control unit unidirectionally,

wherein said data transfer unit transfers the image data packet to one of said plural image processing units based on an identification information for identifying one of said plural image processing units added to the image data packet, and

wherein one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the image data packet which is transferred by said data transfer unit based on the identification information.

Claim 57. (new): An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein said control unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing units through said data transfer unit, and one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the basis of the image processing setting.

Claim 58. (new): An apparatus according to Claim 57, wherein said control unit generates a command packet in which a header including the identification information is added to command data including image processing information to perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing units,

wherein said data transfer unit transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information, and

wherein one of said plural image processing unit corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing based on the image processing information.

Claim 59. (new): An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein said second

image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of image data

packets.